

Message Text

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41

ACTION SY-05

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4558

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 2159

ABIDJAN FOR RSO

DAKAR FOR FBO KARR

E.O. 11652: N/A (DECONTROL 31 OCT 76)

TAGS: ASEC ABLD AFSP MR

SUBJECT: SECURITY PROTECTION OF FOREIGN SERVICE INSTALLATIONS

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1565 AND 1832

1. WE ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF PARTICULARLY TIGHT BUDGET SITUATION DEPARTMENT IS NOW FACING, AND CRITICAL NEED FOR FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS ABROAD TO REDUCE EXPENDITURES TO ROCK-BOTTOM MINIMUM.

2. WE ARE EQUALLY CONSCIOUS OF CONTINUING SECURITY THREAT TO UNITED STATES FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL AND INSTALLATIONS IN ARAB WORLD AT LARGE AND, IN PARTICULAR, IN ARAB COUNTRIES LIKE MAURITANIA WHICH ACCORD DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND ABSOLUTE FREEDOM OF ACTION TO LARGE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION CONTINGENTS.

3. SERIOUS GAPS IN OUR PHYSICAL SECURITY POSTURE WERE IDENTIFIED EARLY IN SUMMER. IN CONSULTATION WITH RSO, WE DEvised SERIES OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS IN LATE JULY, AND IMMEDIATELY SET ABOUT CARRYING OUT THOSE WE COULD FINANCE FROM POST BUDGET. ON AUGUST 4 WE MADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORMAL REQUEST FOR MONEY REQUIRED TO FUND MORE EXPEN-

SIVE ITEMS. AT SAME TIME WE REQUESTED TECHNICAL BACK-STOPPING ON DESIGN OF URGENTLY REQUIRED PERIMETER WALL AND COMPOUND LIGHTING. SEARCH FOR TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS FOR LATTER PROBLEMS IS PROCEEDING, ALTHOUGH MUCH MORE SLOWLY THAN WE WOULD LIKE.

4. UNHAPPILY, OTHER REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS ENUMERATED REFTELS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN PUT TO ONE SIDE PENDING FINAL DECISIONS ON WALL AND LIGHTING. WE BELIEVE ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO GET UNDERWAY SERIES OF PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR WHICH DETAILED DESIGNS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND CONTRACTOR STANDING BY AWAITING SIGNAL TO BEGIN. WE THEREFORE URGENTLY REQUEST DEPARTMENT TO BREAK ALL NON-WALL AND NON-LIGHTING ITEMS OUT OF STALLED PROGRAM (LOBBY GRILL, BRICKING UIPOF MEDICAL UNIT ALCOVE, ETC.), AND PROVIDE FUNDS QUICKLY TO PERMIT IMMEDIATE START ON THESE MODEST BUT CRITICALLY-NEEDED PHYSICAL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS.HANDYSIDE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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